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# INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The local broadcasting system of Gottwaldov (P50/021) announced in the afternoon of 11 April 1953 that the inhabitants of certain quarters would be obliged to have their citizen identity cards (obcanske prukazy) supplemented by an entry certifying their permanent residence. To this effect the identity cards would have to be turned in on certain days of the following week. It was stated in the same broadcast that prior to having those entries accomplished the persons involved would have to produce two copies of filled-in police registration forms<sup>1</sup> which ought not to be folded in order to prevent their invalidity.
2. Since mid-January 1953 permanent street patrolling was introduced in Gottwaldov. One or two-man SNE patrols armed with pistols have been permanently making day-and-night rounds all over the Gottwaldov city area. These patrols, however, were not observed making systematic checks on persons or their identity papers.

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4. In early April 1953 posters were pasted throughout Gottwaldov announcing that "Eng. Stastny and Janda who had been abducted to Germany would have meetings with the working people" in the afternoon and on the evening of 11 April. The population of Gottwaldov did not show any particular interest in those meetings the aim of which was apparently to spread anti-American propaganda by depicting how the passengers of the aircraft which had landed in Frankfurt on Main on 24 March 1953 had been terrorized.
5. There is almost no possibility of obtaining textile goods, particularly of better quality, at ration prices in Gottwaldov. The prices of so-called free-market goods have not changed much since 1952 and are absolutely out of reach for the great majority of the populace. In

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food stores at Gottwaldov as well as in other towns there are posters warning customers that purchased goods would not be wrapped. This fact gives evidence of a serious shortage of wrapping paper in Czechoslovakia.

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6. [ ] the majority of Czechoslovaks do not agree with the present regime, but do not dare to show their disapproval openly. Only in private talks with trusted friends do people express their criticism and their conviction that the Communist regime will sooner or later be overthrown. The anti-Communist part of the population fix their greatest hopes on President Eisenhower; they firmly believe that he will not be willing to compromise with the Communists and will finally solve the problem of world Communism.
7. People acquire information on what is actually happening in world politics from foreign broadcasting stations, chiefly from Radio Free Europe, which at Gottwaldov and in Prague is in great favor. Listening conditions at Gottwaldov are better than in Prague where jamming is far more intense. In source's opinion many Communists listen to RFE.
8. [ ]

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1. [ ] Comment. An impending re-registration of the Czechoslovak population was reported by Czechoslovak newspapers at the end of February 1955.

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